

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Brazil/Paraguay

DATE DISTR. 29 Apr 54

SUBJECT Sociological and Economic Conditions in Border Area

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE
ACQUIRED BY SOURCE [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION [REDACTED]

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1. The town of Ponta Pora (22°28'S, 55°44'W), located on Brazil side of Brazilian-Paraguayan border, has a population of about nine thousand. Native Brazilians make up the bulk of population though there are a few German, Italian, and Negro families. Farming and ranching are the primary means of livelihood.
2. Since 1951 a new high school, trade school, and combination bank and post office have been built. In addition, a rail line connecting Ponta Pora and Campo Grande has been completed, thus providing rail communication with the coast. Two hospitals exist and major operations can be performed. Poor people are treated free. Paraguayan nationals from Pedro Juan Caballero and surrounding area have access to hospital facilities of Ponta Pora.
3. Ponta Pora water system is dependent on individual wells. Water supply is adequate and purity good. No epidemics have occurred due to pollution. Hospitals provide usual vaccinations and inoculations of children. There is no refrigeration system for handling of bulk foods, and meat must be consumed without hanging. Canned products are available in stores.
4. Products of local farms include fruit, corn, cane, mate (tea), vegetables, and fowl. During occasional bad growing years bank loans are available to farmers at very reasonable rates. A cooperative frontier spirit prevailing amongst settlers results in mutual help as needed. Ranchers ship cattle to Campo Grande and thence to the coast.
5. Smuggling activity is widespread and virtually uncontrollable between Paraguay and Brazil. The border is not patrolled for all practical purposes. Most smuggling is done from Paraguay into Brazil and consists usually of cattle. Certain luxury items such as perfume, Japanese lace, and leather goods are also brought into Brazil illegally. Customs stations between Brazil and Paraguay are symbols of authority only. Inflationary cycle in Brazil has caused smuggling in recent years to be into the country. Price of consumer goods is still rising.
6. Paraguayan and Brazilian troops stationed at border towns mingle freely while off duty. Relations are fairly good except for squabbles and fights usually following dances and parties. Discipline on duty is lax. Settlers on each side of the border cross to and fro without hindrance or formality. There is relatively little friction between nationals.

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